

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A somatic stem cell-augmenting material, characterized in that said somatic stem cell-augmenting material contains isolated isoflavone aglycone that augments stem cells and said isolated isoflavone aglycone is comprised of at least 70 wt% daizein.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The somatic stem cell-augmenting material according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~said stem cells are somatic stem cells or embryonic stem cells,~~ said somatic stem cells including stem cells that become a basis of various organogenesis and histogenesis, that includes hematopoietic stem cells, nerve stem cells, and bone marrow stem cells, ~~and the like.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended): The somatic stem cell-augmenting material according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said isolated isoflavone aglycone possesses estrogen-like activity and is prevented from blocking enzyme activity of enzymes that act on cell proliferation factor.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The somatic stem cell-augmenting material according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said isolated isoflavone aglycone is a material derived from grains.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The somatic stem cell-augmenting material according to claim 4, characterized in that a material derived from said grains is produced by performing fermentation on grains by koji mold to decompose proteins thereof and then performing hydrolysis.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The somatic stem cell-augmenting material according to claim 5, characterized in that said grains are pulse crops.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The somatic stem cell-augmenting material according to claim 5, characterized in that said material produced by hydrolysis of isoflavone aglycone is further concentrated.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A somatic stem-cell augmenting material, characterized in that said somatic stem-cell augmenting material contains isolated isoflavone aglycone comprised of at least 70 wt% daizein and further is a product of promoting which promotes proliferation of lactic acid bacteria contained in said product and/or lactic acid added to said product during

further hydrolysis of said product that is obtained by way of fermentation of pulse crops by koji mold to decompose proteins thereof.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The somatic stem cell-augmenting material according to claim 3, characterized in that said isolated isoflavone aglycone is a material derived from grains.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The somatic stem cell-augmenting material according to claim 10, characterized in that a material derived from said grains is produced by performing fermentation on grains by koji mold to decompose proteins thereof and then performing hydrolysis.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The somatic stem cell-augmenting material according to claim 11, characterized in that said grains are pulse crops.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The somatic stem cell-augmenting material according to claim 12, characterized in that said material produced by hydrolysis of isoflavone aglycone is further concentrated.

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): The somatic stem cell-augmenting material according to claim 6, characterized in that said material produced by hydrolysis of isoflavone aglycone is further concentrated.

Claim 16 (canceled).